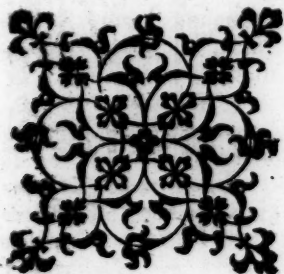


THE
EARLE
OF
STRAFFORDS
SPEECH
ON THE SCAFFOLD

before hee was beheaded on
Tower-hill, the 12 of
May, 1641.

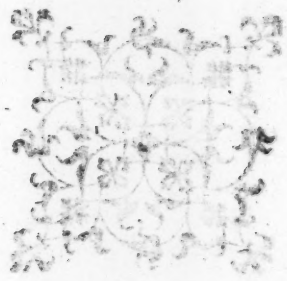


LONDON,
Printed Anno Domini 1643

THE
EARLY

OF
STRAFFORDS
SPEECH

ON THE SCAFFOLD
before he was beheaded at
Tower-hill, the 12 of
May, 1649.



LONDON:
Printed by James Dorman, 1649.

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JUNE 1, 1916



THE
EARLE OF
STRAFFORDS
SPEECH
On the Scaffold.

MY Lord Primate of Ireland (and my Lords, and the rest of these Gentlemen) it is a very great comfort to me, to have your Lordship by me this day, in regard I have bene knowne to you a long time; I should be very glad to obtaine so much silence, as to bee heard a few words, but I doubt I shall not. My Lord, I come hither by the good will and pleasure of Almighty God, to pay that last debt I owe to sinne, which is death; and by the blessing of that God to rise againe, through the merits of Christ Jesus, to eternal glory: I wish I had bene private, that I might have bene heard: my Lord, if I might be so much beholding to you that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very

great courtesie. My Lord, I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I doe it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveness that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart: I speake it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any Creature; I thanke God I may say truly, and my Conscience beares me witnesse, that in all my services since I have had the Honour to serve his Majesty in any Employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joye and individuall prosperity of King and People; if it have beene my hap to be misconstrued, it is the common portion of us all while wee are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter; here wee are subject to errour, and apt to be mis-judged one of another. There is one thing I desire to cleare my selfe of, and I am very confident I speake it with so much clearenesse, that I hope I shall have your Christian Charity in the beleefe of it; I did alwayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and people happy; so farre have I beene from being against Parliaments. For my death I here acquit all the world, and pray God heartily to forgive them: and in particular, my Lord Primate, I am very glad that his Majesty is pleased to conceive mee, not meriting so severe and heaveie a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence: I am very glad and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his, and beseech God to turne it to him, that he may find mercy when he hath most need of it. I wish this Kingdome all the prosperity and happinesse in the world: I did it living, and now dying it is my wish: I do now professe it from
my

my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wish every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whether the beginning of the happinesse of a people should be written in Letters of blood; I feare you are in a wrong way, and I desire Almighty God that no one drop of my blood may rise up in judgement against you.

(My Lord,) I professe my selfe a true and obedient Son to the Church of England, to that Church wherein I was borne, and wherein I was bred; *prosperity and happinesse*, be ever to it: and whereas it hath been said that I have enclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth answering, let me say truly, that from the time since I was one and twenty years of age, till this houre, now going upon nine and forty, I never had thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my Religion in England: and never any had the boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the best of my remembrance; and so being reconciled to the mercies of *Christ Iesus* my Saviour, into whose bosome I hope shortly to be gather'd, to enjoy those eternall happinesses that shall never have end. I desire heartily the forgiveness of every man, both for any rash or unadvised word, or deed, and desire your Prayers: And so my Lords farewell, farewell all the things of this world: LORD strengthen my faith, give me confidence and assurance in the merits of *Christ Iesus*. I desire you that you would be silent and joyne in Prayers with me; and I trust in GOD that we shall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accomplishment of all happinesse, where every teare shall be wiped from our eyes, and every sad thought from our hearts: And so GOD bless this Kingdome, and *Iesus* have mercy upon my Soule.

F I N I S.

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